

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2016 9:24 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Robert Smoler <rsmoler@att.net>

Subject: Re: Holiday Gifts

We do need hard copy signatures, so if you're on board please print and sign the petition and return it to me c/o [REDACTED].

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 17, 2016, at 7:58 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello, [REDACTED] parents. I am a proud graduate of Fairfield Public Schools. I am a proud parent of an FPS student. And I am proud to say that I am a teacher in this great school district. Growing up I was lucky to have 2 present parents. However, I still continue to refer to the Fairfield Public School system as my 3rd parent. I credit this system for more than just my education. This system, made up of incredibly dedicated and passionate individuals, helped mold me into the person I am today. Please take a minute to read the below message from my union leader. Our children, students, and teachers right here in Fairfield are now at risk of becoming collateral damage as political wars and budget cuts ensue. If you feel compelled, please sign and submit the attached petition. This affects all of us. Please share this with other Fairfield voters.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Dear Fairfield Resident FEA Colleagues,

I know everyone is really busy with the holidays, but THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT!!! **This is especially so because our new contract will be coming up for a vote this fall.**

Every four years, an election is held in Fairfield for the First Selectman's Office (like the mayor). The democrats and republicans each put up a candidate for the first and second selectman's position. The top three vote earners, regardless of party, end up forming the Board of Selectmen. Two years ago, Mike Tetreau, a democrat, won the race for first selectman, but in a real surprise, the two republican candidates, Chris Tymniak and Laurie McCardle, were the next two highest vote earners. So even though Mike Tetreau won the top job, he ended up being out numbered on the Board of Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen is a very important Town Board as they have the first vote on all Board of Education budgets and the teachers' contract after they have been approved by the BOE.

Why am I writing to you now?

1. About a year after being elected, Ms. McCardle resigned and the republican party appointed Ed

Bateson to replace her.

2. Both Mr. Bateson and Mr. Tymniak are closely aligned with the Fairfield Taxpayer Group and have a history of voting against funding for education.

3. In fact, Mr. Bateson voted against the teachers contract during the last negotiating cycle and voted to cut the education budget every year from 2011-2014. In 2015, he voted to accept a very small increase in the education budget only because approval of the budget locked the BOE into bearing the full brunt of a cut in state education aid.

4. Rather than accepting the fact that Mr. Bateson will fill out the remaining 3 years of Ms. McCardle's term, the democratic party has decided to push for a special election. If they can get 5% of the registered voters in Fairfield (approximately 2,050 voters) to sign a petition calling for the special election, the election will be held. If they are successful getting the requisite number of signatures, **the democrats will put up a very pro-education candidate.**

The FEA's perspective:

1. Mr. Bateson was not elected to office.

2. The remainder of Ms. McCardle's term is 3 years, not a couple of months. The voters of Fairfield should have the opportunity to vote on the person that is going to hold tremendous sway over the next 2 teachers' contracts and the next 3 education budgets.

3. **We need to do whatever we can to help the democrats** get the signatures they need so the town has the opportunity to vote.

4. When there is a special election, the town can then decide whether they want a member of the Board of Selectman who is for or against adequate funding for public education.

What I'm asking you to do:

1. Print the attached petition, fill out the attestation on the bottom of the form and sign and date the form.

2. In the body of the petition, please have all of your friends and family members who are registered to vote in Fairfield sign the petition. They should include their signature, printed name, and address exactly as it appears on their voter registration card. Don't forget to include your own signature, printed name and address.

3. A building rep or member of the PAC will gather the petitions this Wednesday at work for delivery to democratic headquarters Wednesday night. Time is short, we need you to act now! We probably need to get 3,000 signatures in order to net the 2,050 that we need because the republican party is likely to challenge as many signatures as they can.

I don't think it will take long to get 10-15 signatures from each of our family and friends. If we all band together and do our part, we can get this job done.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (rsmoler@att.net or [203-856-0524](tel:203-856-0524)) or Mick McGarry (michael_mcgarry@hotmail.com or [203-623-6297](tel:203-623-6297)).

All the best,

Bob Smoler
Mick McGarry

<2016_BOS_Vacancy_Petition_Letter_Size.docx>
<INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR PETITION CANVASERS.docx>

From: Bob Smoler, Fairfield Education Assoc [mailto:ffld.education.assoc@snet.net]

Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2016 11:20 AM

To: Robert Smoler

Subject: Petition on the Special Election (3)

Dear FEA Colleagues,

Last night Mick McGarry walked into Democrat Headquarters where they were having a rough night. They had about 1,700 signatures and were promised a couple of hundred more, meaning that it was touch and go as to whether or not they would have enough signatures to force a special election for the Board of Selectman's seat vacated by Laurie McCardle. Mick then handed over the 620+ signatures that the teachers had gathered making the election a reality. When it is all in, the democrats should have about 2600 to 2700 signatures, almost assuring that a special election for the vacated Board of Selectman's seat will take place some time in May.

I can't thank all of you enough for the incredible job you did. We only had six days to take action to make a special election possible, and you, the FEA, pulled it together. A special thanks to Mick McGarry at Fairfield Warde H.S. for organizing our activities and to Frank Sahagian at Fairfield Woods M.S. who collected over 100 signatures on his own.

While an election still needs to occur, as of now we should feel great about what we accomplished and what we can accomplish when we band together!

Congratulations to all again for a job well done.

All the best,

Bob Smoler
FEA President